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THE SCHOOL SYSTEM OF

LIBYA.

From

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American Vice Consul.

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American Consulate,
Tripoli, Libya.

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THE SCHOOL SYSTEM OF
L I B Y A .

INTRODUCTION

The schools of the colony of Libya are under the supervision of the "Superintendence of Schools" which has its headquarters in the city of Tripoli. All administrative matters, including the program of education, and all fiscal matters within the budgetary limits, are decided by this office.

Although all other activities of the colony are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Colonies at Rome, acting through the Governor General and through one of the local government bureaus, and all salaries and other expenses are paid from the budget of that Ministry - even in the case of the military and naval establishments and such specialized services as the Meteorologic Office and the Office of Monuments and Excavations - the school system of the colony remains the one exception to the rule. A certain sum is provided in the budget of the Ministry for Colonies for the schools of Libya, as one of the following schedules will indicate, but the largest single item of expenditure which is for the salaries of the teaching staff has not yet been transferred to the budget of that Ministry; the teachers continuing to be paid by one of the nineteen jurisdictions in the mother country from which they were "borrowed" for colonial service. The colony up to the present time paying members of the teaching staffs only the allowance to which they may be entitled because of size of family and the indemnity for colonial service to which all white government employes

of the colony are entitled, including those in the career colonial civil service. A very rough estimate of the total sum spent in teachers' salaries places the annual amount at Lire 4,260,000.00.

It is learned that efforts are being made to have the teachers and their salaries transferred to the budget of the Ministry for Colonies in order that they may not need to continue in their present indefinite classification.

PUBLIC AND STATE ASSISTED SCHOOLS

The majority of the schools for Europeans are, as will be noted, public, and the expense of maintaining them is met as indicated in the preceding section. However, there is a certain number of parochial schools and the majority of these are recognized by the state and "credits" are accepted as from state schools. The lay teachers in these schools are even paid by the government, but only according to the minimum salary scale; the difference between this minimum and the actual salary to which the teacher may be entitled as well as the indemnity for colonial service, the family allowance et cetera, must be met by the employing organization.

It will be noted that there are no Universities or like institutions of higher learning in this colony, unless the newly established "Al Madrasah al Islamiyah al Iolya", which will be further referred to below, may be so classified. The secondary schools of the colony prepare up to college entrance. Those wishing to take university degrees are then obliged to enroll in some Italian

/ or Sicilian

or Sicilian university. The University of Catania, in Sicily, apparently attracts many of the local young men, not only because of the comparative vicinity but also, it is believed because that institution grants special facilities to residents of this colony in the matter of exemption from attendance at lectures, permitting examinations to be taken annually even when the student has done his studying at home.

School for Trachomatous Children

A special school for trachomatous children which is fully equipped to give constant medical treatment to children afflicted with this very common local disease was formally opened by the Princess of Piedmont at the time of her visit to this colony in the spring of 1935 with her husband, the heir apparent, and is called the "Scuola Principessa di Piemonte".

Careful medical examination of all schoolchildren, whether European, Arab, or Jew, is now carried out at regular intervals and afflicted children are immediately transferred to the special school where they undergo treatment while continuing their lessons. It goes without saying that the indigenous population, being most frequently afflicted, stands to benefit most from these measures.

EDUCATION FOR THE NATIVES

The following schedules will, it is hoped, indicate the efforts being made by the government of Libya to bring an adequate educational system for the natives into being. Taking into consideration that Tripoli and Bengasi are the only centers that approach the concept of a "city" the

number of public schools outside those two centers, often in places where the population is small and scattered,, appears to speak well for the government's desire to bring the benefits of education to this backward race.

Too much attention need not be paid to the large number of Arab "private schools" reported. These are frequently presided over by one man who happens to have a local reputation for saintliness or religious learning and native children are sent to him to learn the rudiments of reading and writing and for instruction in the teachings of the Koran. It is believed in many quarters that these "schools" will not be able for long to meet the competition of the public schools now established and being established by the government in the matter of secular education, at least.

Schools of Arts and Crafts.

The "Auqaf" is a charitable and benevolent Arab institution which exists practically everywhere where there is an Arab settlement. Since practically/^{every} Arab leaves at least a part of his worldly possessions to the Auqaf, and since these apparently very rarely dispose of property, they have grown very rich. In addition to caring for the old, infirm, and poor, the Auqaf also runs schools of arts and crafts for native children. These are recognized by the government and, as the following tables will show, subsidized, - principally for the purpose of teaching Italian to the youngsters. Despite this subsidy the schools have so far remained private and autonomous, but it is generally believed that they will be absorbed into the public

system within the year as far as supervision and control is concerned. Real estate and equipment will, is is believed, remain the property of the Auqaf.

New Arab School for Higher Education
The "Al Madrasah al Islamiyah al Iclya".

A Royal Decree of May 15, 1935, establishes a new school which is described as an Institute of Higher Learning in Islamic Culture. The Es-Sur Auqaf is to contribute the building and first installation while the cost of operation is to be met by the Mazbuta Auqaf and the colonial government.

The school is to be administered by a committee of prominent Arabs who will be appointed by the Governor General.

The school, in addition to offering academic courses in Islamic culture, will also offer a variety of courses to prepare young Arabs for the teaching profession in the public schools, both elementary and secondary, for the government civil service, and for the leading posts in the native tribunals and as native representatives of the civil population in the affairs of the government.

The schedules follow:

/ SCHOOL BUDGET

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SCHOOLS BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1934 - 1935 OF THE COLONY OF

L I B Y A

TRIPOLITANIA -

Purchase of books etc, such as Contribution to the " Bollettino Ufficiale " and for other publications of interest of the Colony	L.	225.000.00	
Subvention to organisations and Institutes of a handicraft nature	L.	500.000.00	
Post allowances & family allowances to teachers & personel	L.	350.000.00	
Total for Tripolitania		<u>1.075.000.00</u>	L. 1.575.000.00

CIRENAICA -

School of Arts & Crafts	L.	350.000.00	
Post allowances & family allowances to teachers & personel	L.	610.000.00	
Total for Cirenaica		<u>960.000.00</u>	L. 960.000.00

New Construction, maintenance and repair of buildings for entire Colony	L.	5.665.000.00 (a)
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GRAND TOTAL	L.	<u>8.200.000.00 (b)</u>
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- NOTES: (a) Construction and maintenance is not included in the school budget proper, this work being carried out by the Office of Public Works. It is given above in order to indicate the work being done.
- (b) Salaries, amounting to approximately Lire 4,260,000.00, not included. See page four of foregoing text.

No statistics are available concerning the expense of sanitary and medical service. Such expenses are met from the budget of the Public Health Office and are not separately listed; Public Health Doctors, nurses, and supplies being detailed or furnished as needed.

/ SCHOOLS

NPL

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone (A)

Addis Ababa via N.R.

Dated April 29, 1936

Rec'd 7:22 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

250, April 29, 3 p.m.

CONFIDENTIAL

My 231, April 22, 5 p.m.

Government will probably leave tomorrow afternoon for Lekempti some 150 miles due west of here. Latest reports indicate Italians may occupy Addis Ababa about May 3, provided they meet with no resistance. Small Ethiopian forces believed still holding certain strategic positions about eighty miles north of the capital.

The Government will be accompanied by Spencer (See my 13, January 7) and by Dr. and Mrs. Lambie (See my 171, November 14).

ENGERT

NPL:SMS

-9-
-- SCHOOLS IN LIBYA --

SCHOOLS		INSCRIBED			NATIONALITY						RELIGION				TEACHERS	
	Number of Schools	Boys	Girls	Total	Italian	Natives	English	French	Greek	Other Natio nality	Catholic	Ortodox	Jews	Mahom edan	Italian	Indigenous
Public Schools of Tripolitania	99	10.038	3.842	13.880	4.909	8.718	178	43	15	17	4.977	25	2.501	6.377	274	90
Public Schools of Cyrenaica	39	4.261	1.573	5.834	2.192	3.614	1	10	11	6	2.178	--	377	3.279	98	45
Private Schools of Tripolitania	604	12.452	328	12.780	293	12.397	24	26	35	5	261	52	1.539	10.928		
Private Schools of Cyrenaica	17	780	148	928	393	535	--	--	--	-	393	--	200	335		
Kindergarten of Tripolitania	13	514	981	1.495	744	692	38	13	6	2	766	7	618	104		
Kindergarten of Cyrenaica	8	299	290	589	506	69	1	12	-	1	502	-	86	1		
TOTAL	780	28.344	7.162	35.506	9.037	26.025	242	104	67	31	9.077	84	5.321	21.024	372	135

/SUMMARY

- SUMMARY -

Public Schools for Europeans	at Tripoli	No. 6	in Tripolitania	No. 35
" " " Jews	" "	" 2	" "	" 2
" " " Mahomedans	" "	" 3	" "	" 56
" " " " Female				
Professional School	" "	" 1	" "	" 1
" " Parochial	" "	" 4	" "	" 5
Private Schools for Europeans	" "	" 6	" "	" 8
" " " Jews	" "	" 2	" "	" 15
" " " Mahomedans (Koran Schools)	" "	" 3	" "	" 581
Public Kindergarten	" "	" 5	" "	" 7
Private "	" "	" 5	" "	" 6

Total Schools of Tripoli

No. 37

Total Schools of
Tripolitania

No.

716

Public Schools for Europeans	at Bengasi	No. 3	in Cirenaica	No. 12
" " " Jews	" "	" 1	" "	" 1
" " " Mahomedans	" "	" 4	" "	" 21
" " " " Female	" "	" 1	" "	" 2
" " Parochial	" "	" 2	" "	" 3
Private Schools for Europeans	" "	" 3	" "	" 3
" " " Jews	" "	" 1	" "	" 2
" " " Mahomedans (Koran Schools)	" "	" 2	" "	" 12
Public Kindergarten	" "	" 3	" "	" 5
Private "	" "	" 2	" "	" 3

Total Schools of Bengasi

No. 22

Total Schools of
Cirenaica

No.

64

GRAND TOTAL - SCHOOLS OF LIBYA

No. 780

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: 1. "Annuario delle Istituzioni Scolastiche 1934 - 1935 "

2. Several conversations with Comm. Professor Mario Tortonese, Superintendent of Schools of Libya.
3. Office of Public Works.
4. Public Health Service.
5. Official Bulletin of the Government of Libya, various issues.

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